Digestive Disease National Coalition



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E.P. DIRKS

July 23, 2001

The Honorable John Dingell

Ranking Member

House Energy & Commerce Committee 2322 Rayburn House Office Building

Washington DC 20515

Dear Congressman Dingell:

Thank you for your leadership in the Congress in support of a strong and enforceable Patients' Bill of Rights.

The Digestive Disease National Coalition (DDNC) is a 22 year-old advocacy organization comprised of 26 patient and professional societies concerned with the many diseases of the digestive tract. One of the Coalition's top public policy priorities in recent years has been working to secure passage of the managed care reform legislation that you, Congressman Ganske, Congressman Norwood, and other members of the House of Representatives have championed.

The Coalition strongly believes that ensuring access to speciality care, clinical trials, emergency room services, and legal recourse for improperly denied coverage are essential to improving the quality of health care for the over 60 million Americans who suffer from a digestive disease annually. We look forward to continuing to work with you in support of the Bipartisan Patient Protection Act as the House begins consideration of this important issue next week.

Once again, thank you for your leadership in the House on this and other health care issues effecting the American people.

Sincerely,

Maurice Ceulli

Maurice A. Cerulli, MD Voluntary President